THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Communications charges a licence fee of Rs. 100/- and royalty of Rs. 4800/- per annum per link for communication over a distance of 50 to 60 Kms. But for fishing vessels, only Rs. 250/- per annum per vessel as licence fee (on royalty), which is quite moderate, is charged for issue of Maritime Mobile Station licence.

Foodgrains scam

3135. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 19th August, 2002 under the caption "Grains meant for poor sold for profit";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry has been initiated in the matter to bring culprits to book; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) to (d) The State Government of Jharkhand has already done the needful in the matter.

Excessive use of fertilizers and insecticides

†3136. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers are using more than the required quantity of fertilizers and insecticides;

(b) if so, whether any concerted efforts are being made for educating the farmers, about the ill-effects of usage of fertilizers and inseticides, optimum use of underground water and other resources, for increasing yield; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.